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UNCLAS ROME 003465

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/TRA (BYERLY, FAUX-GABLE, JONES)  
BRUSSELS FOR PAUL FELDMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF ITALY OBJECTIONS TO U.S. AIR CARRIER  
PRICES ON ITALY-MUMBAI ROUTES

REF: SECSTATE 182292

1. Econoff and post FAA representative met September 7 with Ente Nazionale per L'Aviazione Civile (ENAC) Deputy Director General Sciacchitano to deliver reftel points. Sciacchitano confirmed to Econoff that ENAC had "suspended" its attempts to force Delta and Northwest Airlines, among other airlines, to raise fifth freedom fares. (Note: The Italian press had earlier reported that ENAC had backed down from its threat to sanction fifth freedom carriers for undercutting prices offered by Alitalia. End Note.)

2. Sciacchitano said approximately 40 airlines received such letters requesting that they not undercut third and fourth freedom carriers. In light of Sciacchitano's confirmation of the suspension, Econoff did not raise reftel points orally but left them as a non-paper.

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